AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A computer system for hosting an on-line travel planning application containing a search value program to facilitate selection of travel itineraries, the computer system comprising:

a central processing unit; and

a storage unit connected to said central processing unit for storing said search value program thereon, wherein said search value program is configured to:

allow a traveler to select a travel criteria and to set traveler preferences therefor in a traveler profile,

derive preference factors including a lowest fare multiplier, an available dates index, a non-stop service index, and an equipment type index for said travel criteria based on said traveler preferences,

initiate a query of at least one travel information database for itineraries matching said selected travel criteria using an on-line search engine,

calculate a travel value index for each itinerary using a travel value algorithm that subtracts preference factors from, or adds preference factors to, or both, an optimal value of said travel value index depending on said criteria matching itineraries, and

return only itineraries where said travel value index thereof satisfies a traveler defined threshold.

2. (Withdrawn) The computer system according to claim 1, wherein said search value program is further configured to cancel before final completion of said query any itineraries that cannot satisfy said traveler defined threshold.

3. (Withdrawn) The computer system according to claim 1, wherein said search value program is a Web based application.

4. (Withdrawn) The computer system according to claim 1, wherein said search value program allows said traveler to select said travel criteria and set said travel preferences via the Internet.

5. (Withdrawn) The computer system according to claim 1, wherein said travel value algorithm is defined in a manner such that an optimal value for said travel value index is approximately 100 percent.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating selection of travel itineraries, comprising:

selecting one or more travel criteria;

allowing a traveler to define ~~defining a traveler profile containing~~ traveler preferences associated with said travel criteria and storing said traveler preferences in a traveler profile;

deriving preference factors including a lowest fare multiplier, an available dates index, a non-stop service index, and an equipment type index for said travel criteria based on said traveler preferences~~,~~;

initiating a query of at least one travel information database for itineraries matching said selected travel criteria using an on-line search engine~~,~~;

calculating a travel value index for each itinerary using a travel value algorithm that subtracts preference factors from, or adds preference factors to, or both, a fixed optimal value of said travel value index depending on said criteria matching itineraries~~,~~; and

returning only itineraries where said travel value index thereof satisfies a traveler defined travel value index threshold.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, further comprising canceling before final completion of said query any itineraries that cannot satisfy said traveler defined threshold.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein said travel value algorithm is defined in a manner such that an optimal value for said travel value index is approximately 100 percent.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said step of selecting, allowing ~~defining~~, deriving, and initiating are performed over the Internet using a Web browser.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9, further comprising allowing said traveler to modify ~~modifying~~ said traveler preferences in real time over the Internet using said Web browser and repeating said deriving, initiating, calculating, and returning based on modified preferences.

11. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the traveler preferences include preferences involving fare, availability, service type, and equipment type.